

**HALF SHEET.**—We are compelled to issue but a half sheet this week, for several reasons. We hope our subscribers will bear with us this time, and we will take measures to prevent its recurrence again if possible.

**A GOOD 'UN.**—A day or two after the Massillon Bank had suspended specie payment, an old farmer went into the bank with about one hundred dollars of their pictures and requested the pay for them. The bank had arranged all the gold and silver it could raise, in conspicuous heaps on the counter, to convince the people that it was abundantly able to redeem its paper, if it was willing. The officers refused to pay their notes, telling the old man that the bank had suspended payment. The honest old gentleman being in the habit of paying his own notes when due, could not understand why any one should refuse to pay a note when able, went to institute a suit against the bank, thinking that, "A bird that can sing, but will not, must be made to sing."

**POSTAGE.**—An order has been received by our Post Master, to retain in his hands, all money received for postage in specie, consequently he can do no otherwise than to require specie for postage. This requirement may at first seem oppressive, but when we recollect that the law of Congress has always required the revenue to be paid in specie, or its equivalent, and that bank notes are not now equivalent to specie, as the banks will not pay specie for their bills, we at once see the absolute necessity of the order. It may be said that the department may be more lenient at this crisis, but that is impossible as there is a positive law of Congress to the contrary, and that the officers of the department cannot receive anything but specie or its equivalent, without a direct violation of the oath they have taken. The following remarks of the Globe, and the letter from the Post Master General to the Post Master at Baltimore will convince every one of the necessity of the requisition:

The following letter of the Postmaster General to the postmaster at Baltimore, clearly shows that he cannot countenance the receipt of irredeemable paper for postage, without a direct violation of the laws of the land. He has no authority to dispense with those laws; and if he were to aid in their violation, he would knowingly subject himself to the penalties of impeachment. In addition to this conclusive consideration, the public is bound for the payment of the contractors, and others employed in the mail service, in gold and silver, or their equivalent. How can this be done unless gold and silver, or their equivalent, be collected for postage? How can the Department redeem its plighted faith, or even carry on its operations, if it deprive itself of the means which the laws have furnished to sustain them? And how could the Postmaster General, as an honest man, even if his legal authority were unquestionable, with his eyes open, take a course which he knew must end in a violation of his engagements, a prostration of the credit of the Department, and the interruption of its operations?

We have no doubt, that when the people perceive how illegal it is to receive irredeemable paper, how certainly it would lead to a violation of the public faith, and how extensively it would hazard the system which diffuses intelligence to them, they will cheerfully endure the inconvenience of paying their postages in specie until the present storm has blown over. There are sixty or eighty millions of specie in the pockets of our people, and in a few days it will doubtless be known where sufficient quantities for this purpose can be procured.

**Post Office Department,**  
May 14, 1837.  
Sir: Your letter of yesterday, by Express Mail, was not received until it was too late to answer it by last night's mail. You state that there is dissatisfaction in Baltimore at the requisition of postages in specie. No man can deplore more than the undersigned the causes which render the requisition necessary, and none will labor with more unceasing devotion to remove them.

The instructions given you are but a repetition of the standing instructions contained in the printed pamphlet of laws and regulations which have governed the Department from time immemorial. The act establishing the rates of postage, has always been construed to establish them in the legal currency of the United States. Accordingly, you will find the following instructions in the printed regulations, viz:

"No. 62. You will receive nothing but specie, or its equivalent, for postage."  
"No. 245. All payments to the Department, whether upon its drafts, or by deposit in bank, must be in specie, or its

equivalent. No allowance can be made to postmasters for the depreciation of money received for postages, nor losses by fire, robbery, or theft."

The legal duties of the Department and its officers are, if possible, rendered more imperative by the following section in an act passed April 14, 1836, viz:

"Section 2. That hereafter no bank notes of a less denomination than ten dollars, and that from and after the third day of March, anno Domini eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, no bank notes of a less denomination than twenty dollars shall be offered in any case whatever in which money is to be paid by the United States or the Post Office Department; nor shall any bank note of any denomination be so offered, unless the same shall be payable and paid on demand in gold or silver coin at the place where issued, and which shall not be equivalent to specie at the place where offered, and convertible into gold and silver upon the spot, at the will of the holder, and without delay or loss to him: Provided, nothing herein contained shall be construed to make any thing but gold and silver a legal tender by any individual, or by the United States."

Accordingly, one of the articles of agreement required from the banks by the act passed June 24d, 1836, "to regulate the deposits of public money," is in the following words, viz:

"Secondly. To credit as specie all sums deposited therein to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, and to pay all checks, warrants, or drafts drawn on deposits, in specie, if required by the holder thereof."

Section 5th of the same act enacts, that "no bank shall be selected or continued as a place of deposit of the public money, which shall not redeem its notes and bills, on demand, in specie."

And the 8th section of the same act provides, that "if, at any time, any one of said banks shall fail to perform any of said duties, as prescribed by this act, and stipulated to be performed by its contract; or if any of said banks shall, at any time, refuse to pay its own notes in specie, if demanded," &c. "it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to discontinue any such bank as a depository," &c.

The funds of the Post Office Department are a part of the revenue of the United States, and are in terms embraced in the material provisions of these laws. In respect to this department, it is the indispensable duty of the undersigned, to the performance of which he has bound himself by a solemn oath, to carry these provisions faithfully into effect.

No man would more cheerfully confirm himself in his private transactions to the circumstances which may surround him than the undersigned; but in reference to public duties clearly enjoined by law, he has no discretion, however difficult and painful may be their performance. Be assured, sir, and assure the people of Baltimore, that his exertions will be unremitting to relieve them from the inconveniences which they endure, by attempting to induce the deposit banks to resume payment and fulfil their contracts with the Government—by endeavoring to devise means to facilitate the procurement of specie funds—and by the adoption of any expedient calculated to afford relief, which may not be in contravention of the Constitution and laws of the land.

The department will, without hesitation, receive from you its own warrants payable at banks, or drafts drawn on you, for the purpose of paying its debts, if any relief can be made to grow out of the operation.

On all these matters, the undersigned invites suggestions from you, and the frank communication of such as may be made to you by you suffering fellow-citizens.

Very respectfully,  
Your obt. serv't,  
AMOS KENDALL.  
J. S. SKINNER, Esq.  
P. M. Baltimore, Md.

The paper system being founded on public confidence, and having of itself no intrinsic value, it is liable to great and sudden fluctuations; thereby rendering property insecure, and the wages of labor unsteady and uncertain. The corporations which create the paper money cannot be relied upon to keep the circulating medium uniform in amount. In times of prosperity, when confidence is high, they are tempted, by the prospect of gain, or by the influence of those who hope to profit by it, to extend their issues of paper beyond the bounds of discretion and the reasonable demands of business. And when those issues have been pushed on, from day to day, until public confidence is at length shaken, then a reaction takes place, and they immediately withdraw the credits they have given, suddenly curtail their issues; and produce an unexpected and ruinous contraction of the circulating medium, which is felt by the whole community.

Read the above extract from the Farewell address of the Patriot JACKSON. Is it true or not?

#### OPENING OF NAVIGATION.

Vessels have commenced running on the lake from and to Buffalo. It is said that emigration to the west will be greater this year than in any former year.

The third number of the Western Agriculturist is issued, and specimens may be seen at this office.

#### BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE U. S. OF AMERICA. A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas great and weighty matters, claiming the consideration of the Congress of the United States, from an extraordinary occasion for conveying them, I do, by these presents, appoint the first Monday in September next, for their meeting at the city of Washington hereby requiring the respective Senators and Representatives then and there to assemble in Congress, in order to receive such communications as may then be made to them, and to consult and determine on such measures as in their wisdom may be deemed meet for the welfare of the United States.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed, and signed the same with my hand.

Done at the City of Washington, the fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven, and of the Independence of the United States the sixty first.

By the President  
MARTIN VAN BUREN.  
JOHN FORSYTH, Secretary of State.

#### CONFIDENCE OF MERCHANTS AND FARMERS IN OUR BANKS.

On Monday, a gentleman well acquainted with business and with the suspension of specie payments, went into the Bank of Pittsburg, and exchanged about \$200 of Silver for their Bank Notes; deliberately preferring the Notes.

On Tuesday, one of the oldest, most wealthy, and experienced men here—who began his early career in our country by honest labor, at fifty cents a day, but has risen to the highest eminence by persevering industry—sent \$500 of specie as a deposit to the Merchants and Manufacturers Bank.

On Wednesday morning, an old Farmer, who has lived in our country and sold his produce in our city for upwards of thirty years, and who owns stock in two banks, brought his cash and took up his dividends to buy more Bank Stock.

An old German, hearing the news, said he had several hundred dollars in specie, and he would give it to our Banks to keep them in the hour of trial: that he was not afraid of our banks.

A Farmer, on Thursday last, hearing that our merchants were in want of money, trotted into the city a large sum to lend them, in order to aid them in their distress.

Now this is cheering. Let all follow the example, and we will soon have better times.

The above is from Harris' Pittsburgh Intelligencer, it portrays the true state of things more forcibly than the most elaborate article can.

The banks of the country have expanded their issues to a greater amount than they are able to redeem, and having flooded the country with their bills, now worthless as the rags of which they were made, and on the verge of bankruptcy, must depend for support on the honest, hard-working farmer who has accumulated a little money by the hardest, against the time of need.

This little scrap of the Intelligencer's sustains the remark that we have often made, that the honest strait-forward man need not fear a pressure in money matters, and that it only effects those who have attempted to get rich by speculating, and shaving the laboring classes.

The following well-timed article is from the Connaut Gazette, a spirited, well-conducted whig paper. How different the tone of this article from the leading articles in most of the whig papers of the country. The Editor gives a sure panacea for the universal disease. Let every one take a large dose and we will insure them, that it will effect a speedy cure.

The amount of our importations last year was one hundred and eighty millions of dollars, being an excess of sixty millions over our exports! A balance of trade against us in a single year nearly sufficient to absorb all the gold and silver money the Union contains. Such being the fact, who can wonder that the cry of distress is wafted on every breeze—who can wonder at the appalling amount and number of failures in the commercial States and cities! The truth is, the people of the United States have been running mad—raving mad—for the last three or four years. The good old habits of industry and economy which gave individuals the possession of solid and tangible wealth, and made our nation eminent among the greatest of the earth, have been lost sight of, contemned and despised; nearly every man has been infected with a mania for getting rich in a moment and without working. The bitter fruits of this we are now reaping. The present generation are learning a lesson which they will remember to the end of their lives, and, harsh as it is, it is a most salutary one. We must now turn round—off with our broad-cloth coats, ten dollar hats, silk gloves and go to work—aye that's the word—to work! It's of no use to lie on our backs groaning hard times! hard times! and invoking curses on the heads of the authors of the Treasury Circular, Nick Biddle, A. Jackson, Mr. Van Buren, &c. &c. &c. We have it in our power to make good times, and the quicker we are about it the better. The theme is one that might be dilated on to the extent of volumes, but it is just as well disposed of in few words. Let those who have been living in luxury and now find themselves nearly penniless, sell off their fine establishments, substitute home

made for the costly Brondeloths with which the English have been glutting our market on purpose to break down American Manufacturers, turn farmers and go to work, go to work, go to work! In so doing they will gain substantial wealth, which, though its amount may sound less, will stand by better than the imaginary hundreds of thousands and millions we see scattered to the four winds by the first breath of every periodical panic.

**PRINTERS WAGES.**—Copy of a letter from the Post Master at Aurora.

"Sir:—The Courier sent to this office to address Riley Cochran, is not taken from the office—he has runaway—gone to Michigan.

Respectfully yours,  
W. R. HENRY.  
Aurora, Ohio, May 16, 1837."  
He owes us for papers, \$1.08

A Post Office has been established at Newton falls, Trumbull county, and Abiram Phelps, Esq. appointed Post Master. A Post Office has also been established at the centre of Northfield, in this county, and Geo. Lillie, Esq. appointed Post Master

[For the Courier]

**MR. EDITOR:**  
The public have been really misinformed, through the medium of sundry newspapers published in this section of country, that the name of the village at the centre of the town of Boston, is changed from Peninsula, to Lowell. Of course, people residing at a distance, and not apprised of the falsity of the report, are exposed to the liability of addressing their communications to a place which has no existence, and of committing other errors. The inhabitants of this village suppose that the privilege of changing its name, is exclusively theirs; but to them, the idea of such a change was never suggested, until the public were falsely told that it had been effected. We are very well satisfied with the name, which the natural curiosity, formed by the Cuyahoga, seems to have dictated as the most appropriate, and by which our village has hitherto been known, as far as a knowledge of the township in which it is situated extends. There was, it is understood, a secret attempt, made by two or three of the magnates of bluesticism, to procure that style for the Post Office, recently established here. Had this design of the unsolicited would-be dictators been accomplished, the general scheme would have been crowned with success, and the people of Peninsula, would have been robbed of their right; but happily, it miscarried. The style of our Post Office is Peninsula—rather awkward, to be sure, in the village of Lowell.

The truth is, Mr. Editor, this is an unwarrantable piece of assumption; it looks very much like an attempt on the part of a few purse proud bloated aristocrats, at the usurpation of privilege, belonging to the people in common. In fine, it deserves the severest lash of public censure; and that we doubt not it will receive.

Should we become dissatisfied with the name of our village, we will meet together, and agree, if possible, upon a substitute; and when that is accomplished, we think that we shall be capable of communicating the intelligence to the public.

#### PEOPLE OF PENINSULA.

Peninsula, May 12th, 1837.

At a large and respectable meeting of the citizens of Palmyra, convened for the purpose of expressing their opinion relative to the disposition of Portage County's share of the surplus revenue, Dr. Lorin Biglow was called to the Chair, and Horace Daniels appointed Secretary. The meeting immediately proceeded to appoint a committee to draw up and report resolutions expressive of the sense of this meeting upon the subject under discussion, which consisted of the following persons: Dr. Lorin Biglow, James Magill, Esq. Sylvester Baldwin, Charles Canfield, William R. Hallock, and Francis Lewis. The Committee after retiring for a short time returned and reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That it is the unanimous opinion of this meeting, that the loan of Portage County's share of the surplus revenue to any Chartered Company, not having the interest of the State in view, is highly impolitic.

Resolved, That this meeting disapprove in pointed terms, the loaning of said money to the Cleveland Bank.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting said money should be distributed, equally among the several townships in proportion to the number of white male inhabitants over the age of twenty-one years, in such manner as the Commissioners shall think proper.

townships, to be by them loaned to individuals agreeably to Legislative acts, as it respects security, and per centage.

Resolved, That this meeting respectfully recommend to the different townships, who are in favor of the above method of disposing of Portage County's share of the surplus revenue to hold similar meetings.

Resolved, That the above proceedings, be signed by the Chairman, and Secretary, and be published in the Ohio Star, and Western Courier.

LORIN BIGLOW, Ch'n.  
HORACE DANIELS, Sec'y.  
Palmyra, May 22, 1837.

**Harbor of Cleveland.**—The deputy collector of this port has favored us with a statement of the number of arrivals and departures, since the opening of navigation this spring. From this statement it appears, there have been two hundred and seventy-eight arrivals, and two hundred and sixty-six clearances. Of these,

Ships,	-	-	1
Schooners,	-	-	168
Sloops,	-	-	6
Steamboats,	-	-	102

The above arrivals were up to the time of the opening of the Buffalo harbor. It shows what was going on by way of business at this end of the Lake while the lower ports were closed with ice. It shows further that Cleveland is the point—and the only point for a Rail Road to unite Philadelphia and Pittsburgh with Lake Erie.—Clev. Adv.

#### OUTRAGE.

**The Float Bridge.**—On Saturday night, the 6th inst. the Float Bridge, across the Cuyahoga river, between this city and Cleveland, was cut loose by two rascals, who were afterwards seen walking through the street, about midnight, with the implements of destruction in their hands; but they could not be recognized. The Bridge floated down the stream some distance, and lodged nearly opposite Barstow & Co's. warehouse. Some individuals, early Sunday morning, made the Float fast to the ship Milwaukee, with a cable, where it remained till night, when the same men who cut it loose the night before, or some other evil disposed persons, severed the cables, and again sent it adrift. It was found in the lake the next morning a total wreck.

It is truly to be regretted that this Bridge, so essentially necessary to the public convenience, should be thus wantonly destroyed. Every possible effort should be made to ferret out the rascals, and bring them to punishment. The public must feel and see the necessity of having a permanent Draw Bridge at this point.—Ohio City Argus.

**Distressing Occurrence.**—On Sunday last, while two boys, named Foster, and Butterfield, were regaling themselves in a small boat, at Fairport, they were requested by a man (name not known,) to be taken on board. Accordingly the boys rowed to the end of the pier, when the man jumped on the side of the boat which immediately upset, and all three were drowned. The bodies were soon afterwards found, and that of young Foster was conveyed to the relatives, at Chardon, and the other two were brought to this village and interred. We have not learned the former residence of the man, or Butterfield. They all have been employed on the Rail Road.—Painesville Republican.

**Steam Boat Accident.**—We learn from the Sandusky Clarion, that on the night of the 12th inst. a serious accident occurred about half-way between that place and Huron. The new Steamboat Bunker Hill, on her upper passage, ran foul of the Steamboat Cincinnati, which left the port of Sandusky a short time before, on her downward passage. The Bunker Hill struck the Cincinnati forward of the star-board wheel-house, and carried it away, together with the wheel and shaft, Captains office, the mate and cook's room, and one tier of berths in the gentlemen's cabin. Captain Bradley, of the Cincinnati, was very dangerously wounded, and great fears are entertained he will not recover. No other person was injured. The engine is much damaged. The wreck was towed into Huron by the Bunker Hill.—Painesville Tel.

**Pretty Fair Business.**—There have been no less than four arrivals of steamboats from Buffalo within the last 10 hours. The Michigan, Robert Fulton, Pennsylvania, and Bunker Hill. Besides the immense quantities of freight brought by these boats, the number of passengers is computed at not less than two thousand.—Clev. Adv.

**Murder and Robbery.**—Three villains, supposed to be from this city, yesterday [Sunday] about ten o'clock, entered the house of Moses Ewing, an aged citizen of this county, Broadhead's road in Robinson Township, and demanded his money. His wife, a very old woman, gave them what money was in the house, about one hundred dollars, which her husband had received the day before, in Pittsburgh, for a horse he sold. She happened to say that she knew one of them; they took the money and left the house, but shortly after returned, and deliberately shot her with a pistol. She survived but a few minutes.—Gazette of Monday.

Several persons have been arrested on suspicion, but nothing has been elicited.—Pittsburgh Mercury

**Melancholy and Fatal Accident.**—On Monday night last, at about 12 o'clock, while Mr. Benjamin Harsha and Mr. Lantz, were at work in a sawmill in McKean township, the dam gave way, and carried with it the whole mill. The two men floated down the stream about a quarter of a mile, when Mr. Lantz succeeded in getting ashore. Search was immediately made for Mr. Harsha and continued until about daylight, when he was found from his own hallooing lodged against the root of a tree covered with twelve or fifteen cords of driftwood. With much difficulty he was extricated alive, though so much bruised in the chest and limbs as to cause his death on Thursday. Mr. H. was above the middle of life. He bore an excellent character, and had left a large family including a number of small children to lament his untimely fate.—Erie Observer.

**Arrivals from Buffalo.**—This long looked for event has at length taken place.—Navigation between Cleveland and Buffalo, may now be said to have commenced. Three Steamboats, the Charles Townsend, Daniel Webster, and the British boat Eclipse, arrived this morning from the above port—with an immense number of passengers, freight, &c. They encountered some difficulty from the floating ice at Buffalo, but sustained no material injury.—Clev. Adv.

**CHICAGO CITY ELECTION.**—The recent charter election of this city, resulted in favor of the Democratic candidates, by a majority of two hundred and thirty-seven. At the election previous the whigs succeeded by a majority of six. This result is highly gratifying to the Democracy of the West and is another evidence of their attachment to Democratic principles.—Id.

#### VIRGINIA ELECTIONS.

From the Richmond Enquirer of May 10.

**CONGRESS—cont'd.**  
Norfolk District.—Francis Mallory, (Whig) elected in place of Geo. Lovall, (Rep.) withdrawn.  
Southampton D.—Francis E. Rives, (Rep.) in place of John V. Mason, (Rep.) elected a Judge of the General Court.  
Powhatan D.—John W. Jones, (Rep.) re-elected without opposition.  
Brunswick D.—Geo. C. Dromgoole, (Rep.) re-elected without opposition.  
Charlotte D.—Jas. W. Bouldin, (Rep.) re-elected without opposition.  
Halifax D.—Walter Coles, (Rep.) re-elected.

Franklin D.—Archibald Stuart of Patrick (Rep.) elected over Nath'l H. Claiborne, (Whig.)  
York D.—Henry A. Wise, (Whig.) re-elected without organized opposition.  
Henrico D.—John Robertson, (Whig) re-elected without opposition.  
Albemarle D.—James Garland, (Rep.) re-elected without opposition.  
Spotsylvania D.—John M. Patton, (Rep.) re-elected without opposition.  
Caroline D.—R. M. T. Hunter, (Whig.) elected in place of John Roane, (Rep.) withdrawn by a majority of about 15 votes over Mr. Harwood, (Rep.)—Mr. Hunter owes his success to the running of Mr. Uphaw, who received about 60 republican votes.

Northern Neck D.—John Taliaferro, (Whig) re-elected.  
Doudon D.—Charles F. Mercer, (Whig) re-elected.  
Frederick D.—James M. Mason, (Rep.) elected in place of Col. Edward Lucas, (Rep.) withdrawn.

Harrison D.—Joseph Johnson, (Rep.) re-elected.  
Monongalia D.—William S. Morgan, (Rep.) re-elected without opposition.  
Rockingham D.—J. S. Pennybacker, (Rep.) elected in place of Jas. H. Beale, (Rep.) withdrawn.

Rockbridge D.—Robert Craig, (Rep.) re-elected.  
Kanawha D.—Andrew Bejre, (Rep.) elected in place of Wm. McComas, (Whig) withdrawn.

Washington D.—George W. Hopkins, (Rep.) re-elected.  
**Recapitulation.**—Parties stand as they did in the last Congress, viz: 15 Republicans to 6 Whigs. The Republicans have lost one Representative in the Caroline district, in consequence of a split. There are 7 new members in the next Congress.

#### STATE SENATE—(NOT COMPLETE)

**REPUBLICAN.**  
Dr. Corbin Braxton,\* J. B. Harvie, Louis C. Bouldin, Rob't W. Carter, Anderson Moffet,\* Chas. J. Faulkner.\*  
\*Not in the last Legislature.

**Rhode Island Elections.**—The majority for John Brown Francis, for Governor, is 770. The vote stands thus:

Francis, (Demo.)	1716
Peckham, (Whig)	946

Majority, 770

#### OUR COUNTRY ALWAYS IN THE WRONG.

The National Intelligencer of this morning labors to multiply the commercial disasters of the time, by encouraging the Mexican Government to consider the course by taken by our ships of war to protect our merchant ships from capture, or to obtain their release when improperly seized by the Mexicans, as a wrong which the Mexican Government ought to resent. The print which invariably sides with every party that makes war upon our Government, at home or abroad, has the following notice of the affair of the Natchez and the Mexican brig, to stir up